

## **If I have already been sick and recovered from COVID-19, do I still need to get the vaccine?**

Yes. A person can become re-infected with COVID-19 even after they have recovered from the disease. Experts do not know how long a person has protection from getting sick again once they recover from COVID-19. More research and data are needed to figure out the immunity timeline.

## **Can a person currently sick with COVID-19 receive the vaccine?**

People should not get the vaccine until they have recovered if they still have symptoms or have not met the criteria to end isolation. There is no minimum waiting period between infection and vaccination.

## **What is community or herd immunity? How many people need to get the vaccine to reach community or herd immunity from COVID-19?**

Community or herd immunity means that enough people have developed immunity to a disease, either naturally or through vaccination. When a community reaches this level of immunity, there is no longer a risk of community transmission or outbreaks. Scientists are still researching COVID-19 immunity to understand how many people need to receive the vaccine to reach community or herd immunity.

## **How long after getting the COVID-19 vaccine will I have protection from infection?**

It may take at least two weeks for most people's bodies to build immunity after the second vaccination. In the meantime, continue to practice simple preventive health measures - washing your hands, wearing a mask and watching your distance, even after you have received the vaccine to avoid infection before your body has had enough time to build immunity.

## **Will I have protection against COVID-19 if I only get the first dose of the vaccine?**

The COVID-19 vaccines require two doses to allow your body to build enough immunity to fight the virus. Having two doses of a vaccine is not unusual; many other routine vaccines also require more than one dose for full immunity. You will receive the second dose of Pfizer's vaccine after 21 days; Moderna's vaccine after 28 days.

## **Is the vaccine still effective if I wait longer than the recommended time between first and second doses?**

Getting the second dose on time is important for providing long-lasting immunity. During the research process, the current timeframes provided the most protection from contracting COVID-19. The timeframe between the first and second dose for the Pfizer vaccine is 21 days. The Moderna vaccine's timeframe between doses is 28 days.

## **Will COVID-19 vaccines cause me to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests?**

No. These vaccines will not cause you to test positive on viral tests, which test to see if you have a current infection.

## **Will I have to start over if I miss the recommended timeline for getting the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

No, you will not have to restart the vaccine series. You should get the second dose as close to the recommended timeframes, 21 days for the Pfizer vaccine and 28 days for the Moderna vaccine when possible.

However, the CDC recommends a maximum timeframe of 42 days for both Pfizer and Moderna vaccine after the first dose. Experts are still studying the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines beyond the 42-day window.

## Do I have to get the two doses of the COVID-19 from the same manufacturer?

Yes, to ensure maximum protection, you should take two doses of the same brand of COVID-19 vaccine. Research on the vaccine's effectiveness, Pfizer 95% and Moderna 94.5%, was studied using the same vaccine brand for both doses. After receiving your first dose, keep your vaccination card safe; it will have the vaccine brand.

In rare and exceptional situations, the CDC recommends that a person get any available mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 28 days between the doses to complete the vaccination series. You do not have to start the vaccine series over with a different new brand. Rare and exceptional situations include the vaccine is no longer available, or a healthcare provider cannot determine the vaccine brand.

## Should people who previously received antibody therapy for COVID-19 receive the vaccine?

There is no data on the safety or efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccination in people who received monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma as part of the COVID-19 treatment. According to the CDC, people receiving these types of treatments should wait at least 90 days to avoid interference with vaccine-induced immune responses.

## Should I get the vaccine if I am immunocompromised?

There is currently not enough data available to establish the vaccine's safety and efficacy for immunocompromised people.

## Can I get other vaccines while I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Based on what we know, mRNA vaccines (like the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines) should be taken alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before and after taking any other vaccines. For instance, if you plan to get your flu vaccine, you can get that first, wait 14 days and then get the COVID-19 or vice versa.

## How long will the protection last after I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

### Will it require an annual booster like the Flu vaccine?

Because the COVID-19 virus and the COVID-19 vaccine are new, we do not have enough information to know how long immunity from the vaccination will last. More time is needed to study both the disease and the vaccine to understand its long-term protection.

## If I have tested positive or exposed to COVID-19, how long should I wait before getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

Anyone who has tested positive or exposed to COVID-19 should follow their medical provider and local health department's quarantine protocols to ensure they are not unknowingly spreading COVID-19 to others. Ideally, once the quarantine period is over, and no symptoms have developed, a person can receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

## What are the odds I'll still catch COVID-19 even after taking the vaccine?

According to the CDC, we won't know how long immunity lasts until we have more data from vaccinated individuals. Experts are trying to learn more about both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity to COVID-19. The CDC and its public health partners, such as Harris County Public Health, will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

### Sources

[CDC. COVID-19. After Getting the Vaccine](#) | [CDC. COVID-19. Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Houston Methodist. Coronavirus Vaccine Community FAQs](#)